## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05170 241645Z

43

**ACTION SS-25** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  $\,$ 

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P 241555Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8552

CONFIDENTIAL PANAMA 5170

**EXDIS** 

FOR ASST. SEC. LEWIS FROM AMBASSADOR JORDEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, XM, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA AT COLOMBO NACC

REFS: (Q) STATE 177814 (B) JORDEN-LEWIS TELECON

1. MY THANKS FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE. (REF. A). I HEARTILY CONCUR THAT IT

WILL BE IN OUR AND PANAMA'S BEST INTEREST IF THE CANAL ISSUE IS NOT OVERLY DRAMATIZED AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. AS I SAIN IN OUR TELECON(REF. B), I BELIEVE YOUR SUGGESTIONS IN PARA. 4 OF REFTEL ARE GOOD ONES AND WILL HAVE A USEFUL EFFECT IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA ALL HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH TORRIJOS AND HE WILL TAKE SERIOUSLY ANY ADVICE FROM THEM URGING RESTRAINT AT COLOMBO. SIMILARLY BILL ROGERS IS HIGHLY REGARDED HERE AND HIS VOICE WILL CARRY MUCH WEIGHT. LET ME KNOW WHAT ACTION IS TAKEN ON THIS FRONT SO THAT I CAN FOLLOW UP AS APPROPRIATE.

2. HOWEVER, AS I SAID, I AM NOT SANGUINE THAT OUR BEST EFFORTS WILL HAVE THE FULL EFFECT WE DESIRE. TORRIJOS IS A VOLATILE PERSONAGE AND HE MAY WELL GET SWEPT UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF COLOMBO WHERE HE CAN OBVIOUSLY EXPECT FULLEST SUPPORT FOR PANAMA'S POSITION ON THE CANAL ISSUE. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO LET HIM KNOW THAT IF THAT SUPPORT TAKES A STRONGLY ANTI-U.S. TONE IT WILL DO DAMAGE TO HIS CAUSE IN OUR COUNTRY. I WILL REMIND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM ONCE AGAIN THAT THE NON-ALIGNED WORLD CANNOT GIVE PANAMA A

	NLY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ( JORDEN	CONGRESS CAN DO THAT.	
CONFIDENTIAL			
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, CANALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

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Subject: PANAMA AT COLOMBO NACC TAGS: PFOR, PORG, XM, PN, PQ, US To: STATE

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